



**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



February 25, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Three Western Region employees have been recognized as recipients of the Isaac Cline Awards. NWS Headquarters recently named winners in eight categories. The national awards are presented to individuals and teams that have made significant contributions in support of NWS strategic and operational plans. These awards recognize operational excellence within key facets of the core NWS mission. The National award winners include:

Tanja Fransen, Leadership: Tanja Fransen, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WFO Glasgow, received an award for exceptional leadership efforts shown through outreach activities with external customers, and local, regional, and national programs in the NWS.

Tanja was also honored by Montana Governor Judy Martz on February 19 during the 36th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management in Helena, Montana. Governor Martz presented Tanja with a letter of commendation. In citing Fransen's accomplishments, the governor said, "Particularly noteworthy has been your close coordination with Montana customers in the emergency management profession. You have clearly demonstrated the excellent service that all Montana citizens receive from the weather service."

Michelle Heaps, Support Services: Shelley Heaps, of Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake City, was cited for demonstrating excellent leadership and support for Western Region's Diversity Program. She had led the region's Diversity Action Committee through reorganization and efforts to enlist other employees in being involved in a variety of programs that make a difference in our workplace.

Upper-Air Observations Team, WFO Spokane: Bob Bonner, Verne Ballard, Irwin Haynes, Milton Maas, Stan Savoy, Larry Sossaman, Bob Cummings, Merri Wallace, and Rob Sumpter, of WFO Spokane, received the award for consistently ranking high both regionally and nationally over the rating period of August 2001 through July 2002, with first in the nation for February 2002.

Please join me in congratulating this well deserved group of award winners.

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

NOAA Weather Radio Update: Salt Lake City Warning Coordination Meteorologist Dave Toronto was among the NWS officials who joined officials from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service and communities in southeast Utah February 25 to dedicate a new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter for southeast Utah. The Grand Junction, Colorado, NWS Forecast Office began broadcasts in a test mode over the Moab NOAA Weather Radio transmitter located on Bald Mesa in the La Sal Mountains, Utah, in November 2002. The Moab area is a very popular regional recreation area. The purchase and installation of the transmitter were accomplished through a joint effort by communities in Grand and San Juan Counties, the NWS and the USDA Rural Utilities Service, which funded seventy five percent of the project.

Montana Governor's Conference on Emergency Management: Representatives from the four NWS offices in Montana attended the 36th Annual Governor's Conference on Emergency Management in Helena, February 18-21. More than 300 of the state's emergency managers and participated in conference. Emergency response, terrorism, and preparedness were the key topics. NWS staff made several presentations detailing the NWS's desire to provide services for all hazards, "weather or not." NWS officials spoke to the Montana Association of Disaster and Emergency Services describing NWS perspectives on a recently completed statewide emergency exercise led by FEMA. A discussion was also held at the State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) regarding on-site support by NWS staff for SECC disaster activations. NWS provided a "state of the state" on the drought conditions in the state to the Montana Drought Advisory Committee. The NWS group also visited with their emergency management partners at their StormReady booth.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This weeks statement of the week is an outlook statement written by the staff (listed at the end of the statement) of WFO San Diego. The statement is very concise and does an excellent job of communicating the inclement weather expected with a preliminary QPF. Good work San Diego!

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SAN DIEGO CA
400 AM PST SAT FEB 22 2003

CAZ042-043-048-050-055>058-060>062-PZZ750-775-2223000-
ALL FO EXTREME SOUTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA
400 AM PST SAT FEB 22 2003

...WINTER WEATHER RETURNING TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MONDAY NIGHT
THROUGH WEDNESDAY...

A STORM DEVELOPING IN THE GULF OF ALASKA WILL AFFECT SOUTHERN

CALIFORNIA MONDAY NIGHT THROUGH WEDNESDAY.

THIS STORM IS EXPECTED TO BRING STRONG WINDS AND PERIODS OF HEAVY RAIN TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA MONDAY NIGHT AND TUESDAY. THE SNOW LEVEL MONDAY EVENING WILL BEGIN AROUND 6500 FEET... THEN GRADUALLY LOWER TO NEAR 5000 FEET TUESDAY. SHOWERS WILL CONTINUE TO AFFECT MOST OF SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA TUESDAY NIGHT INTO WEDNESDAY. SHOWERS MAY LINGER INTO THURSDAY OVER THE MOUNTAINS.

PRELIMINARY STORM TOTAL RAINFALL ESTIMATE ARE...
FOR THE COASTS AND VALLEYS... 1 TO 2 INCHES
FOR THE MOUNTAINS ... 2 TO 4 INCHES
FOR THE DESERTS ... A QUARTER TO 1 INCH

PRELIMINARY SNOWFALL AMOUNTS ARE...
ABOVE 6500 FEET ... 12 TO 18 INCHES
BETWEEN 5000 AND 6500 FEET 1 TO 6 INCHES POSSIBLE.

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SMALL/CLARK/BALFOUR

Four New MSD NSD Instructions: MSD has posted four new regional supplements on the NWS NDS Web site. They are:

- Marine Weather Services filed with NDS 10-310. This instruction provides a definition for Small Craft Advisories, Storm and Gale Warnings
- Western Region Forecast Office Aviation Services filed with NDS 10-801, 805, 808 and 813. This instruction provides additional instruction regarding aviation services.
- Western Region Winter Weather Products filed with NDS 10-513. This instruction provides guidance for issuing winter weather watches, warnings and advisories.
- Western Region Hazardous Weather Outlooks filed with NDS 10-517. This instruction provides guidance for issuing hazardous weather outlooks.

WFO Salt Lake Hosts IFPS Workshop for Local Media: On February 20, WFO Salt Lake City hosted an IFPS workshop attended by members of the Salt Lake City TV weather market, including meteorologists from the top four local stations. MIC Larry Dunn presented a good overview of how forecasters are changing the way they work by exchanging text typing for working with gridded data and discussed the capabilities of IFPS. SOO Mark Jackson gave a demonstration of the functionality of the GFE and walked them through the forecast process, and WCM Dave Toronto showed how to access the current suite of experimental gridded products available on the SLC web site. This was followed by many good questions and an excellent discussion of "accuracy vs. specificity" regarding issuing single-value high/low temperatures out to seven days (something the TV media has already been doing for years). The media members were very complimentary of the work

being done by WFO SLC and left the workshop looking forward to working with the gridded forecast information.

Phones Trees Being Fed by VIP: WFOs Las Vegas, Oxnard, and Monterey have implemented commercial software that integrates .wav files produced by VIP into their public phone trees. The software runs on a basic PC equipped with a sound card that handles multiple phone lines. The relatively inexpensive solution to this age-old problem eliminates direct phone connections into CRS and can also replace the IVR system that is currently used by some WR offices. Joe Lachacz and Craig Schmidt will build a test system at WRH over the next few weeks for evaluation and documentation, then provide installation and operation instructions to the rest of the WFOs in WR. Many thanks to VEF, LOX, and MTR for your efforts!

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

Climate Partnership Program: The Climate Services Division (CSD) at NWS Headquarters, together with the Climate Prediction Center, host a 2 week visiting program called the Climate Partnership Program. CSD recently sent a brochure highlighting this program to each WFO and RFC. There is room for about 2 individuals per month to participate. Participants must apply for the program after seeking approval from their MIC/HIC/supervisor (it will be 2 weeks away from the office). Participants will be required to make a presentation at both CPC and CSD about why they are interested in developing a partnership for climate services between their local office and CPC and CSD. This 2 week program is set up for sharing ideas and concerns from a local office perspective, while learning about the products and services that are produced at a national level. If you would like more details about the program, please contact Andrea Bair at WRH. The program is explained in detail on the CSD homepage at: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/csd/visitors>.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Seventh Annual Great Divide Workshop: This year's workshop will be held August 26-28, 2003, in Glasgow, Montana. The Great Divide Workshop provides a forum for participants to share information and to discuss ideas involving new tools and techniques for providing weather forecasts for the Inter-mountain West and Western High Plains across the U.S. and Canada. All participants will be asked to provide a presentation topic before June 1, 2003. Abstracts will be taken through August 1, 2003, and can be e-mailed to Thomas.Salem@noaa.gov.

IFPS Web Page Prototype Implemented: Thanks to the work of Don Britton (TFX), Randy Weatherly (SLC), Paul Flatt (BOI), and Maurice Smiley (WR/SIB), WR implemented the first phase of the new grid based web page. The software is running on a couple of fast 8 processor boxes and includes a number of changes to the directory structure to improve maintainability and security. The digital forecast pages are marked as prototypes with appropriate disclaimers consistent with their experimental nature. The web pages include a few products that use SVG and XML, new data formats that are easier to use by other software systems and meet the spirit of the new NRC recommendations. Some of the new

capabilities do not work well with older versions of the browser, particularly netscape, and we are working on an automated disclaimer to alert the user to the need to update their browser version or selected a different option.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Facilities - UPS Replacement: Lee Jensen and Randy Miller from Western Region SOD are in Las Vegas this week to replace the UPS at WFO Las Vegas.

AWIPS Status: All Western Region sites completed their Weather Event Simulator Archive Server (WAS) installations. Most sites have scheduled their upcoming Pre-processor (PX) and Operational Build 1 (OB1) installations. PX and OB1 installations will begin in March and will be completed in May.